PAGE 01 SAN SA 05693 290033Z 5442
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INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
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AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY ROME
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PAN/INTAFF
USUN NEW YORK 868

UNCLAS SAN SALVADOR 5693

E.O. 12065: N/A
TAGS: PINS, PINT ES
SUBJECT: HOMILY FOR JULY 26

1. SUMMARY: IN HIS HOMILY FOR JULY 26 FATHER TORRUELLA, PINCH HITTING FOR RIVERA Y DAMAS, CALLED THE UNFOLDING POLITICAL PROCESS IN EL SALVADOR A NECESSITY, LABELING THE GOVERMENT'S INTENTION TO ATTAIN A POLITICAL SOLUTION TO THE CURRENT CONFLICT A POSITIVE SIGN. HE MADE A SPECIAL EFFORT TO CONDEM ABUSES BY BOTH THE ARMY AND THE OTHER SECURITY FORCES. HE ALSO SPOKE OF THE OBLIGATION OF A GOVERMENT TOWARDS ITS PEOPLE AND THE HYPOCRISIS OF MANY CURRENT PROFFESSIONS OF "LOVE OF COUNTRY" BY SALVADORANS. END OF SUMMARY.
2. THE HOMILY FOR JULY 26 WAS DELIVERED BY FATHER ROBERTO TORRUELLA, EDITOR OF THE CHURCH PUBLICATION "ORIENCION" AT SAN SALVADOR'S METROPOLITAN CATHEDRAL. BISHOP RIVERA Y DAMAS WAS AWAY ON HIS MONTHLY VISIT TO HIS HOME DIOCESE. SOME OF TORRUELLA'S REMARKS FOLLOW.

3. IN AN EMOTIONAL AND LOOSELY PUT TOGEOUTLNHOMILY, PADRE TORRUELLA TOUCHED UPON A NUMBER OF THEMES. HE BEGAN WITH A DECLARATION THAT THOSE WITH GOVERNING POWER SHOULD REALIZE THAT THEIR RESPONSIBLLITY EXTENDS TO ALL THE PEOPLE, AND THAT THE DESTINY OF THE PEOPLE IS IN THEIR HANDS. HE ADDED THAT TO IGNORE SOME PARTS OF THE COMMUNITY WAS TO IMPEDE THE SEARCH FOR JUSTICE. HE DECRIED IN PARTICULAR "EGOISM, AMBITION, AND THE PERSONAL INTEREST OF PARTY, CASTE, OR CLASS". HE STRESSED THAT THE PEOPLE AND THEIR RULERS MUST OPEN THEMSELVES COMPLETELY TO THE LIGHT OF GOD.

4. ADDRESSING THE QUESTION OF ELECTIONS IN AN OBLIQUE MANNER, TORRUELLA COMMENTED THERE WAS MUCH TALK OF LOVE OF COUNTRY IN EL SALVADOR. HE ASSERTED THAT IN SPEAKING OF LOVE OF COUNTRY, HOWEVER, MANY PEOPLE WERE SPEAKING ONLY OF SAVING THEIR TREASURE AND RICHES." HE ADDED THAT THE MOST PRECIOUS ELEMENT OF THAT WHICH IS CALLED 'FATHERLAND' IS" NOT SO MANY ACRES OF COFFEE OR COTTON BUT, "HUMANITY". ACCORDINGLY, THE ROLE OF BOTH CHURCH AND STATE SHOULD BE THE SALVATION OF THE SALVADORAN MAN".

5. TORRUELLA THEN SPOKE OF THE MEANING OF POLITICS. HE DECLARED PARTICIPATION IN POLITICS TO BE RIGHT AND, AT THIS TIME, A NECESSITY FOR ALL SALVADOREANS. HE STRESSED THAT POLITICS SHOUDL BE THE VOICE OF THE COMMON GOOD, "NOT THAT OF THE SELFISH SPIRIT OF THE SEARCH FOR ONE'S OWN

BENEFIT OR THAT OF ONE'S CLASS." CLAIMING THAT IT WAS THE OBLIGATION OF ALL CHRISTIAN TO PARTICIPATE IN THE POLITICAL PROCESS, HE DECLARED THAT THE "REAL VALUE" OF POLITICS MUST BE RETREIVED SO THAT "WE CAN CONSTRUCT A REING OF PEACE, JUSTICE AND LOVE." HE SPOKE POSITIVELY ON THE NEWLY CONSTITUTED CENTRAL ELECTOIONS COUNCIL, CALLING IT " A HOPE FOR THE COUNTRY", AND SAID THAT THE GOVERMENT'S INTENTION TO SEEK A POLITICAL SOLUTION WAS A POSITIVE SIGN.

6. THE DARK SPOT FOR TORRUELLA IN THIS PROCESS WAS THE ARMY. HE STATED THAT MILITARY SOLUTIONS TO MILITARY PROBLEMS WERE LOGICAL; WHAT WAS ILLOGICAL, UNJUST, AND INHUMANE WAS THE FORM IN WHICH A PORTION OF THE ARMY ATTEMPTED TO SOLVE THEIR MILITARY PROBLEMS. HE DECLARED THAT MANY ARMY ACTIVITIES TRAMPLE ON RIGHTS AND JUSTICE, ADDING THAT "THIS, MY BROTHERS, IS NOT ANYTHING NEW". HE ADDED THAT "ALL SALVADORAN ARE CONCIOUS OF THE ABUSSES AND, AT TIMES, THE CRUELTIES COMMITTED BY A SECTOR OF THE ARMY." HE WENT ON TO DENOUNCE THE POST-CURFEW KIDNAPPING OF ONE GUILLERMO HERNANDEZ ABREGO, "WHO IS ...OR WAS..A MECHANIC" BY THE POLICIA DE HACIENDA. HE ALSO CITED THE "ORGANIZED AGENCIES" (A EUPHEMIA FOR THE LEFT) THAT KILLED PEOPLE FOR SUPPORTING THE GOVERMENT OR FOR HAVING RELATIVES IN THE MILITARY.

7. CLOSING THE HOMILY WITH AN ABRUPT RETURN TO THE SUBJECT OF ELECTIONS, TORRUELLA STRESSED THE NEED FOR THEM AND HIS HOPE THAT THEY WOULD HAVE AS THEIR GOALS THE BETTERMENT OF MAN. CONCRETELY, HE DEMANDED THAT ALL IDEOLOGIES AND ALL PARTIES BE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ELECTORAL PROCESS. IN CONCLUSION, HE OBSERVED THAT THE SALVADORAN PEOPLE MUST EXPRESS THEIR WILL, AND THAT THEIR EXPRESSION MUST BE RESPECTED.
HINTON

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
DATE 3 JUL 1982
REVIEWED BY H.C.
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